

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

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FORM**

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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Application Number | 10/666,471 |
| Filing Date | September 19, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Pritchard et al. |
| Art Unit | 1761 |
| Examiner Name | Steven L. Weinstein |
| Attorney Docket Number | AFP-PT009.1 |

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Remarks

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PLEASE IMMEDIATELY DELIVER TO EXAMINER STEVEN L. WEINSTEIN, GROUP ART UNIT 1761.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

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| Firm Name | VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C. | | |
| Signature | <i>Ryan W. O'Donnell</i> | | |
| Printed name | Ryan W. O'Donnell | | |
| Date | October 11, 2006 | Reg. No. | 53,401 |

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent Via Facsimile (571-273-8300) addressed to: Examiner Steven L. Weinstein, Group Art Unit 1761, on the date shown below:

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| Signature | <i>Ryan W. O'Donnell</i> | | |
| Typed or printed name | Ryan W. O'Donnell | Date | October 11, 2006 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Pritchard et al.

Application No.: 10/666,471**Confirmation No.:** 8870**Filed:** September 19, 2003For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PRODUCING FUSED TUBE ON BAG AND
BAG PRODUCED THEREBY**Group:** 1761**Examiner:** Steven L. Weinstein**Our File:** AFP-PT009.1**Date:** October 11, 2006**REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111**Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply is being timely filed in response to the Office Action dated September 11, 2006.

REMARKS

Claims 1-67 are currently pending in this application. The Examiner has taken the position that the pending claims are drawn to the following distinct inventions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I: claims 1-36 and 47-67, drawn to an apparatus and method for attaching a tube to a bag, classified in class 156, subclass 556;